

**SUPPLEMENTAL ACTION**

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with *Davy Zoneraich* on 17 March 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

2. Claim 36 has been re-numbered as claim 1.
3. Claim 37 has been renumbered as claim 2.
4. Claims 2-14 have been renumbered 16-28 respectively.
5. Claims 17-19 and 21-30 have been renumbered 3-5 and 6-15 respectively.
6. As a result of re-numbering of the claims the dependency indicated within the claim language of each of the dependent claim has been renumbered accordingly.

1. A handheld recording and/or reproducing device, comprising: a cylindrically-shaped housing case having a first end opposite a second end, wherein the housing case has a center in a longitudinal direction of the housing case between the first end and the second end, wherein a first end side of the housing case extends from

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the center in the longitudinal direction of the housing case to the first end, and wherein a second end side of the housing case extends from the center in the longitudinal direction of the housing case to the second end; a manipulating unit configured to be arranged on a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said housing case at the first one end side; a strap attaching unit configured to be arranged at the first end side on a plane extending in the longitudinal direction of the housing casing, wherein the strap attaching unit is at a predetermined position spaced from the manipulating unit in a direction of the second; a jack configured to be arranged at the first side on the plane extending in the longitudinal direction of the housing casing, said jack having an opening arranged to receive a plug inserted from a direction of the first end; a storage medium configured to store digital data; a reproducing unit; a power supply unit configured to contain a power supply and to be arranged at the second end side of the housing case, wherein, when the power supply is within the power supply unit, a center of gravity of the device is at the second end side and the predetermined position of the strap attaching unit is spaced from the center of gravity of the device in a direction of the first end, wherein, when the power supply is within the power supply unit and a strap dangled from a neck of a user is attached to the strap attaching unit from a direction of the first end so the device is dangled vertically from the neck of the user, the first end of the housing case orients toward the neck of the user; and a control unit configured to control said reproducing unit to reproduce the stored digital data in accordance with an input from said manipulating unit, said housing case containing said storage medium,

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said control unit, said reproducing unit, said power supply unit and said jack configured to output an audio signal generated by said reproducing unit.

2. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to claim 1, further comprising: a strap to be attached to said strap attaching unit.

16. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 1, further comprising: digital-to-analog converting means for producing an analog signal by digital-to-analog converting said digital data which has been subjected to the reproduction processing by said reproducing unit; and said jack having a terminal for outputting said analog signal obtained from said digital-to-analog converting means, to said plug inserted.

17. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 16, wherein said jack is provided in said case so that said plug is projected from the second end toward the first end in said longitudinal direction.

18. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 17, wherein said jack is provided so that the direction of inserting said plug is slant with respect to said longitudinal direction of said case.

19. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein said strap attaching means is provided on said first end side in the longitudinal direction of said case for attaching a predetermined strap thereto.

20. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 19, wherein said strap attaching means allows said dangling strap to be attached thereto.

21. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 1, further

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comprising: a circuit board which is contained in said case with loading an Integrated Circuit package which constitutes at least a part of said control unit; and projecting parts for containing a part of said circuit board, which are formed so that a part of said case projects in accordance with the form of said circuit board.

22. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 21, wherein said projecting parts are formed in said longitudinal direction of said case.

23. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 1, further comprising a clip which is provided on said first end side in said longitudinal direction of said case to attach the case to a user's body, clothes, and belongings.

24. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 1, further comprising: an interface for taking in said digital data which is transferred from outside; and recording means for recording said digital data taken in by said interface, to said storage medium.

25. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 24, wherein said interface takes in said digital data which is transferred from said outside on Internet.

26. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 25, wherein said interface is a connector based on the Universal Serial Bus standard.

27. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein said control unit is configured to read out said digital data which has been compressed with a MPEG Audio Layer-3 method, from said storage medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction from said manipulating unit.

28. The recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 1, wherein said control unit is configured to read out said digital data which has been compressed by

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an Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding-3 method, from said storage medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction from said manipulating unit.

3. (The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, wherein said strap has a ring part and a holding means for integrally holding a code introduced from said plug and said ring part.

4. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 3, wherein said ring part comprises: band member; and sticking means for sticking one end on the back plane of said band member to the other end on the front plane of the band member.

5. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 4, wherein said sticking means is a sticking tape for detachably sticking said one end on said back plane of said band member to said the other end on said front plane of the band member.

6. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 3, wherein said jack is provided in said case so that said plug is projected from the second end toward said first end in said longitudinal direction of said case.

7. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 3, wherein said jack is provided in said case so that the direction of inserting said plug is slanted with respect to said longitudinal direction of said case.

8. The portable recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, further comprising: a circuit board which is contained with loading an Integrated Circuit package which constitutes at least a part of said control unit; and projecting parts for containing a part of said circuit board, which are formed so that a part of said case projects

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corresponding to the form of said circuit board.

9. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 8, wherein said projecting parts are formed in said longitudinal direction of said case.

10. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, further comprising a clip provided on said first end side in said longitudinal direction of said case, to attach the case to a user's body, clothes or belongings.

11. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, further comprising: an interface for taking in said digital data which is transferred from outside; and recording means for recording said digital data taken in by said interface, to said storage medium.

12. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface takes in said digital data which is transferred from said outside on Internet.

13. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, wherein said interface is a connector based on the Universal Serial Bus standard.

14. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, wherein said control unit is configured to read out said digital data which has been compressed with a MPEG Audio Layer-3 method, from said storage medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction from said manipulating unit.

15. The handheld recording and/or reproducing device according to Claim 2, wherein said control unit is configured to read out said digital data which has been compressed by an Adaptive Transform Acoustic Coding-3 method, from said storage

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medium, in accordance with said reproduction instruction from said manipulating unit.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

1. Claims 1-28 are allowed.
2. The closest prior art Tokyo Shibaura Co et al (9-179594) and Cartmell (60,36,068) does not teach nor suggest in detail handheld recording and/or reproducing device, comprising:  
a cylindrically-shaped housing case having a first end opposite a second end, wherein the housing case has a center in a longitudinal direction of the housing case between the first end and the second end, wherein a first end side of the housing case extends from the center in the longitudinal direction of the housing case to the first end, and wherein a second end side of the housing case extends from the center in the longitudinal direction of the housing case to the second end; a manipulating unit configured to be arranged on a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said housing case at the first one end side; a strap attaching unit configured to be arranged at the first end side on a plane extending in the longitudinal direction of the housing casing, wherein the strap attaching unit is at a predetermined position spaced from the manipulating unit in a direction of the second; a jack configured to be arranged at the first side on the plane extending in the longitudinal direction of the housing casing, said jack having an opening arranged to receive a plug I inserted from a direction of the first end; a storage medium configured to store digital data; a reproducing unit; a power supply unit configured to contain a power supply and I to be arranged at the second end side of the housing case, wherein,

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when the power supply is within the power supply unit, a center of gravity of the device is at the second end side and the predetermined position of the strap attaching unit is spaced from the center of gravity of the device in a direction of the first end, wherein, when the power supply is within the power supply unit and a strap dangled from a neck of a user is attached to the strap attaching unit from a direction of the first end so the device is dangled vertically from the neck of the user, the first end of the housing case orients toward the neck of the user; and a control unit configured to control said reproducing unit to reproduce the stored digital data in accordance with an input from said manipulating unit, said housing case containing said storage medium, said control unit, said reproducing unit, said power supply unit and said jack configured to output an audio signal generated by said reproducing unit.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should" preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ASGHAR BILGRAMI whose telephone number is (571)272-3907. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.



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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tonia L.M. Dollinger can be reached on 571-272-4170. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Asghar Bilgrami/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2443

/Tonia LM Dollinger/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2443